REMARKS

The Office Action indicates independent claim 16 as being obvious over Oshima (U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2003/0046387) in view of Honkala (U.S. Pat. No. 6,850,778). However, the cited references do not teach or suggest, alone or in combination, a media streaming unit configured to perform as claimed in claim 16.

Claim 16 is directed to a telecommunications network having a media gateway that receives and converts signals between first and second communication formats. The media gateway comprises a media streaming unit that determines whether incoming signals comprise media data. Claim 16 recites, "if there is more than one communications channel connected to the media gateway, [the media streaming unit] detect[s] whether the media data is to be re-transmitted over another communications channel, or whether the media data is to be re-transmitted on another timeslot over the same communications channel."

As the Office Action indicates, Oshima does not teach or suggest this claim limitation. However, nor does Honkala. Honkala discloses first and second gateways that route traffic to a destination based on information contained in the data it receives. The first gateway splits incoming data traffic into two types, and outputs the first type of traffic to the second gateway. The second gateway extracts information from the first type of traffic, and outputs that information to the first gateway. The first gateway then outputs the second type of traffic based on the extracted information. According to Honkala, the extracted information is signaling information – i.e., an IP address identifying a destination device and a time slot over which a payload is sent to the destination device. *Honkala*, col. 3, ln. 60 – col. 4, ln. 6.

Nothing in Honkala teaches or suggests a media streaming unit that detects whether media data is to be re-transmitted over another communications channel, or whether the media data is to be re-transmitted on another timeslot over the same communications channel, depending upon the number of communication channels connected to the media gateway. In

fact, Honkala explicitly discloses a gateway function that _negates the need to perform the_

claimed detection. Specifically, Honkala extracts the signaling data needed to route the traffic to

a destination device from the received signal. This data is provided to the gateway from a

source device. Since the gateway is _told_ which timeslot to put the traffic on, there is no need for

the gateway in Honkala to _detect_ which timeslot to put the data on as claimed. _Honkala_, col. 3,

In. 60 – col. 4, In. 6.

The Office Action contends that column 7 lines 33-48 disclose this aspect of claim 16.

However, scrutiny of this passage reveals otherwise. This passage merely discloses a ratio

between the number of signaling gateways and the number of media gateways. That ratio,

which according to Honkala may be one (1) signaling gateway for every eight (8) media

gateways (or any other suitable ratio), simply reflects the fact that there is generally more media

data to be processed than signaling data. _Honkala_, col. 7, ll. 33-39. The passage also

discloses the concept of timeslots on a communication channel, as well as the number of time

slots used for signaling versus the number of timeslots used for carrying media traffic.

However, such information is simply general information describing the format of a conventional

E1 link, and the conventional assignment of different slots.

Thus, the cited passages simply note that there should be more media gateways than

signaling gateways, and that certain slots on an E1 link are used to carry certain types of

information. They say nothing about detecting whether received media data should be re-

transmitted over another communications channel, or whether the media data is to be re-

transmitted on another timeslot over the same communications channel. Therefore, since

neither reference alone teaches or suggests this claim limitation, their combination cannot teach

or suggest this limitation.

Additionally, there is another reason why the cited references do not render claim 16

obvious. Specifically, neither reference teaches or suggests, alone or in combination, "a media

streaming unit configured to ... transfer the media data to a selected time slot on a selected one of the communications channels," as claimed in claim 16. As stated above, the gateway in Honkala is provided with the time slot information it needs to route the data with the received signal. Because this data is provided, there is no need for the gateway in Honkala to select a timeslot.
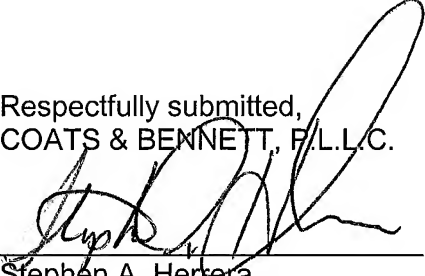
The Office Action indicates that the primary reference Oshima also does not teach or suggest this element. Therefore, the combination of the references also fails to teach or suggest this element of claim 16. Accordingly, the references do not render claim 16, or any of its dependent claims obvious.

The Office Action also indicates that independent claims 27 and 28 are rendered obvious over Oshima in view of Honkala for reasons similar to those stated above. Claim 27 is directed to a method of streaming data through a media gateway connected to one or more communications channels. Claim 28 is directed to a media gateway interconnecting first and second communication networks via one or more communications channels. Each claim recites language substantially similar to that stated above for claim 16. Therefore, for reasons similar to those stated above, the cited references do not teach or suggest, alone or in combination, either of claims 27 or 28. Further, since claim 28 is not rendered obvious over the cited references, neither are its dependent claims.

Finally, the Office Action indicates that dependent claims 19 and 23 are obvious over Oshima in view of Honkala and Bjelland, and that claim 26 is obvious over Oshima in view of Honkala and Tyndall. However, neither Bjelland nor Tyndal remedy the deficiencies of Oshima and Honkala, alone or in combination. Therefore, claims 19, 23, and 26 are also patentable over the cited references.

In light of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: March 11, 2009

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